

Community Planning (Model Cities Program), Director of the Office for Community Development, and Director for the Office for Rural Development. In 1975, John decided to move closer to home. He relocated to Phoenix and became the Director of Arizona's largest agency, the Department of Economic Security, which had a yearly budget of half a billion dollars. Throughout his government service, John was an adept and respected leader.

In 1978, John returned to Tucson and became involved in the private sector as a successful businessman. His skills with money soon lead to a position with the University of Arizona Development Office where he founded the Office of Minority Programs. This office, almost unique among all colleges and universities, raises funds to benefit Hispanic, African-American, and Asian American scholarship endowments as well as special emphasis programs. Under his guidance, the Hispanic Alumni endowment enjoys a market value of \$1.7 million, the largest fund of its kind among all public universities, and the Black Alumni endowment is \$500,000.

Throughout his career, John has brought success to many community activities and is especially proud of his work with the Hispanic Alumni Board, Omega Delta Phi (the first Hispanic fraternity at the UofA) as a founder of the Tucson International Mariachi Conference, the Hispanic Professional Action Committee, the UA Hispanic Alumni, the Tucson Chapter of the America Israel Friendship League, and El Centro Cultural de las Americas.

In addition to his many career and community activities, John has enjoyed a rich and rewarding family life. He and his wife Nancy, high school sweethearts who recently celebrated 50 wonderful years together, raised 6 accomplished children. Now he enjoys being tata to his talented grandchildren. I am proud to enter John L. Huerta's name into the official records of our nation. He represents an American life well-lived for his family, for his community and for his country.

#### FUEL PRICE STABILITY ACT

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana with added flexibility in meeting federal reformulated gasoline (RFG) requirements. The Fuel Price Stability Act will simply allow the Governors of each of the states in the Milwaukee-Chicago market to permit the sale of gasoline from other markets if the price of RFG in our area sees a significant rise or if supplies of RFG in our region are especially tight. Presently, only the EPA has the authority to grant any type of waiver from "boutique" fuel requirements. The Fuel Price Stability Act would change this by allowing our Governors to make needed short-term adjustments.

Granting this new flexibility to local Governors has the potential to keep gas prices down in our area. In the past two years, when RFG prices in the Milwaukee-Chicago market skyrocketed, prices remained comparatively low in surrounding markets, including some of those on the same pipeline that supplies gaso-

line to our market. Should such an occurrence happen again, our Governors should have the authority to permit other gasoline types to be sold in the Milwaukee-Chicago region, thereby increasing potential supplies to our area.

I strongly support other reforms in this area, including efforts to reduce the number of "boutique" fuels used across the country, but, lacking the implementation of a broader plan, this legislation represents a solid step toward greater flexibility in fuel use. I am hopeful my colleagues will support this legislation and the House will act on this proposal expeditiously.

#### POLAR BEAR PROTECTION ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in a civilized society we oppose the mistreatment of animals. When that cruelty takes place in a public forum, as the worst example of "entertainment," we should be outraged. This is exactly what's happening in Puerto Rico.

That is why I introduced the Polar Bear Protection Act. This bill would simply make it illegal to have a polar bear in a traveling circus.

This bill will end the suffering of seven polar bears in the Suarez Brothers' circus in Puerto Rico, where the bears are tortured every day by being dragged from one tropical city to another. They are consistently exposed to high temperatures, lack of sufficient water, as well as whipping and other abuses.

Polar bears' natural habitat in Northern Alaska averages below 11 degrees Fahrenheit. They are Arctic marine mammals that spend a significant amount of time in the water. However, there are loopholes in federal animal protection laws that allowed the Suarez Brothers' circus to enter Puerto Rico with seven polar bears. The circus has exposed these bears to temperatures as high as 113 degrees Fahrenheit and denied them sufficient access to water. This is an outrage, Mr. Speaker.

The circus has been under investigation by authorities in Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Just last week the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confiscated one of the polar bears and placed it safely in the Baltimore zoo. But we need to make sure that the other six bears are not forgotten and that polar bears will not suffer like this in the future.

Polar bears are beautiful, dignified animals that belong in their natural arctic environment or in accredited zoos that can guarantee cool containment areas and access to water. The bottom line is that the circus is just not an appropriate place for a polar bear. We in Congress have the power to stop this outrage and end the cruelty. I urge my colleagues to join with me to prohibit the use of polar bears in circuses.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAXINE ADLER

**HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent retirement of an out-

standing leader in Maryland's public affairs, Maxine Adler.

I first met Maxine as a freshman delegate during the 1987 legislative session in Annapolis. I learned soon thereafter that her diminutive stature belied a tough, persuasive manner and character which loomed large on the Maryland legislative landscape for many years.

Few Marylanders may be aware of Maxine's long and distinguished career. She began her career in Annapolis as a legislative aide to the Baltimore County Delegation to the Maryland House of Delegates. After graduating cum laude from the University of Baltimore Law School, Maxine worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Gilbert, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, and as a law clerk to the Department of Economic and Community Development under the Attorney General. For two decades, Maxine served as a successful lawyer and lobbyist as a member of the Baltimore-based law firm of Semmes, Bowen, & Semmes.

In addition, Maxine has been a valuable and active participant in the greater Baltimore community. Over the years, she has been a member of the University of Baltimore School of Law Advisory Committee, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Self-Insurance, and a Commissioner on the Baltimore County Commission for Women.

Maxine has also been a member of the Women's Housing Coalition's Board of Directors, which provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless, low-income, or at-risk women. Finally, she and her husband, my good friend Robert L. McKinney, were named one of "Baltimore's Power Couples" in the June, 2000 edition of Baltimore Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, Maxine will be sorely missed by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in Annapolis. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Maxine and her husband Bob all the best in their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO FALLEN CENTRAL NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS JOHN E. GINOCCHETTI AND TIMOTHY J. LYNCH

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2002*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I have often risen and submitted comments recognizing the heroics of first responders across the country. Today I rise with a heavy heart to recognize two firefighters from my own congressional district who made the ultimate sacrifice just last week. On Thursday evening, March 7, during a three-alarm house fire in the town of Pompey, two central New York firefighters—John E. Ginocchetti and Timothy J. Lynch—were killed in the line of duty.

While acting on what appeared to be a routine house fire, Firefighters Ginocchetti and Lynch, both responding in a mutual aid capacity on behalf of the Manlius Fire Department, proceeded to mount an aggressive interior attack after successfully "venting" the roof. As Ginocchetti and Lynch made their way into the kitchen and laundry room from the home's attached garage, the floor suddenly gave way, and the men were consumed in a horrific "fireball," falling into the structure's basement